



# Focus

*Growing in Christ through Spirit, mind, body and 'ohana*

1020 S. BERETANIA STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814

AUGUST 2019 – VOLUME LXVI, ISSUE 8

## Upcoming Events



### FAMILY & FRIENDS MOVIE TIME

Sunday, August 4  
1:00 p.m. in Komuro Hall

*“Sound of Music”* Sing-along: After our combined service, we will have a luncheon open to all and afterward, we will show selections from the beloved film, *“The Sound of Music,”* focusing on the songs by Rodgers and Hammerstein. Fun for the whole family!

Join us in watching this film and for an opportunity to have fellowship and popcorn together!

### HALE NANI NURSING HOME OUTREACH

Saturday, August 3  
10:00 a.m.

If your child participated in our Camp Out VBS last month, this outreach is a great way for the kids to put what they learned, *“Jesus is the Light”*, into action!

If your child will be participating in this wonderful outreach to the grandmas and grandpas at Hale Nani, please meet Mele Pepa Latu at First UMC at 9:00 a.m. to walk over to Hale Nani Nursing Home.

Following the outreach, the kids will return to church for s'mores and hot dogs!



### PROMOTION SUNDAY

Sunday, August 18  
During 10 a.m. Combined Service

At our combined service on August 18, we will be recognizing our Sunday School teachers as well as our Sunday School students who are moving into a new class this school year.

Please let your child's Sunday School teacher know if your child will be present at the service to get recognized.

If you have questions, please contact Kim Houff at [kim@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:kim@firstumchonolulu.org)

### *In This Issue:*

Upcoming Events . . . . .	p. 1
Pastor's Page . . . . .	p. 2

August Sermons . . . . .	p. 3
FunFest@First . . . . .	p. 3
Youth & Young Adults . . . . .	p. 4

Ministry News . . . . .	p. 5
Classes . . . . .	p.6
Calendar . . . . .	p. 7



## Pastor's Page

Dear FUMC 'Ohana:

I have been saying for a while that we are living in one of the most divided times in recent history, including within the church. One of the definite ways has been the divide among many Christians: some focus on personal piety (the vertical relationship between humans and God) and others focus on what John Wesley called the "Social Gospel" (the horizontal relationship outward to other human beings and issues that emphasizes social justice).

For those Christians who are more vertically oriented, their criticism of horizontally oriented Christians is that they emphasize what they regard as less important things to faith such as fighting against racism, sexism, and advocating for the poor and outcast (such as the children in the immigration relocation facilities who have been separated from their families). If people would just let Christ into their hearts, everything will be solved. They often say that horizontally focused Christians don't take the Bible seriously. They would point to Galatians 2:16 – "yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ."

Horizontally oriented Christians counter by saying that vertically oriented Christians are focused on their personal relationship with God primarily and ignore the injustices of the world. They often say that vertically oriented Christians claim to embrace the entire Bible, but in practice de-emphasize the significance of the prophets and speaking truth to power. They would point to Matthew 25:31-46, where Christ said, "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers (and sisters), that you do unto me."

John Wesley's appeal to this century is that he was focused on personal holiness AND on the Social Gospel. He was a devout student of the Bible, but he was also one who went to the coal miners, to the workers, and not as much to the wealthy, as many of the Church of England pastors tended to do.

It will be important to do both. Our faith must be grounded in the knowledge and acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Savior, otherwise it is less focused and not as clear. That is the failure of far too many social justice-oriented Christians.

But we cannot forsake the role of prophetic witness and speaking truth to power. I feel that a growing number of conservative evangelicals have abandoned the prophetic mandate by being silent as some of our national leaders speak and act in ways that are blatantly and/or subtly racist and sexist, while others fall silent, seemingly afraid to speak out. This is the utter failure of many pious Christians.

Jesus says in Mark 12 - One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; <sup>30</sup> you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' <sup>31</sup> The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

May we love our God with every part of our being, and may we also bring justice and mercy to God's children with all of our being as well.

Grace and aloha,

*Pastor Tom*



### August 4 – “Babette’s Feast”

This movie is a dramatic illustration of grace. Holy Communion celebrated.

### August 11 – “Les Miserables”

The story of redemption as well as the story of futile pursuit.

### August 18 – “Sing Them Over Again to Me”

This Sunday we will be having our Annual Hymn Sing. We’ll be singing and taking a closer look at some of the most beloved and well-known hymns. Let Kim know if you have a particular hymn you would like to sing by emailing [kim@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:kim@firstumchonolulu.org) or calling the office at 808-522-9555.

### August 25 – “Lilies of the Field”

A jack-of-all-trades handyman helps European nuns build their church.

Copies of the worship script are available via email at [office@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:office@firstumchonolulu.org) or stop by the office for a hard copy.



## FUNFEST@FIRST

FunFest@First is a wonderful community event that will be held on August 17 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Our church will host this all community event for our houseless neighbors with food, music, haircuts, and more! A great serving opportunity! If you would like to volunteer for our FunFest@First event, please email Kim Houff at [kim@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:kim@firstumchonolulu.org) or call the church office at 808-522-9555.

If you are unable to serve at this community event but would still like to bless the houseless in some way, we are in need of the following items . . .

### Donation needed:

- T-shirts (new or gently used)
- Pants
- Shoes
- Socks
- Razors (\$32.99 for 36 at Costco)
- Deodorant (\$14.97 for 4 at Costco)
- Hydro Flask type insulated water bottles (\$24.99 for 2 at Costco)
- Sanitary Items (\$5.32-\$27.81 at Walmart)
- Cosmetics
- Small to Med Sized Towels
- Reusable Bags
- Waterproof Backpacks (\$17.95-22.95 at Walmart)
- Sleeping Bags (\$21.99 at Amazon)
- \$5-\$10 Gift Cards to McDonalds, Burger King, Longs, Walmart



You may drop off all items and/or monetary donations to the Church Office by Sunday, August 11 so we will know what we still need to purchase. For more information, contact Kim Houff at [kim@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:kim@firstumchonolulu.org) or call the church office at 808-522-9555.



### YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY

Huge mahalo and malo aupito to all who made it possible for Vacation Bible School 2019 to be a success!

*Mele Pepa Latu,  
Director of Young  
People's Ministry*



### ENGLISH YOUTH GROUP

God sure has our youth very busy sharing their gifts outside the walls of our church.

Amalia has been travelling all over the place playing in many basketball tournaments entertaining crowds with her awesome skills and her fun-loving heart.



Marina, Sierra and Sara just finished their summer musical, *The Little Mermaid*. The three girls were shining examples of giving and loving on stage and off stage, helping to

encourage many young newcomers to theater. Their professionalism and humility are inspiring.

We welcomed back Vea as she balances being involved with both the *Palangi* (English) Youth Group and the Tongan Youth Group. Her sense of humor and servant's heart is a blessing to our group.



We also are grateful for Ashleigh's return to the Youth Group for the summer. Her mentorship to the girls is invaluable.

God has gifted them all indeed.

*Mark Brekke, Director of Youth*

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

Wednesday, August 14  
11:30 a.m. in the Library



The English Circle of United Methodist Women will meet in the second floor Library on Wednesday, August 14, at 11:30 a.m. Our program is "Women Speaking Truth from the Ground Up." Come early or stay late to help with preparations for FunFest@First. Bring a lunch and join us!

The Tongan circle meets at 8 pm on the third Tuesday of each month.

Women of any age are invited to join the United Methodist Women.

**LUNCH ON THE LOOSE**

Thursday, August 15  
11:30 a.m. at  
FUMC Honolulu



All are welcome to join us for lunch and fellowship at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 15. We will meet at the church and order takeout for lunch. We will help prepare for FunFest@First while we wait for our food.

Contact Kim at [kim@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:kim@firstumchonolulu.org) or the church office at 808-522-9555 to reserve your spot.

**PRAISE BAND HEADED FOR TONGAN AMERICAN UNITED METHODIST CAUCUS**

**San Francisco, California – July 31 to August 3**

We are very proud of our Pancakes and Praise Band for representing First UMC at the Tongan American United Methodist Caucus in San Francisco, California.

Please keep them and the other members of our church heading to the Caucus in your prayers as they travel to and from Utah.



# give aloha

Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts Program

**GIVE ALOHA THROUGH FOODLAND**

Just shop at a Foodland, Sack n Save, or Foodland Farms in September, use your Maika'i card, and tell the cashier you wish to make a donation to First UMC # **77948**. Foodland will match a portion of our donations. These monies will support our Foodbank. Save your receipt!

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Help LemonAid for Love provide clean water for families in Nepal!

For a donation of \$300, you can provide clean water for four families. You can even have your name put on the well if you would like!

LemonAid for Love and our English Youth Group will be heading to Nepal for a mission trip in December to see first-hand the water wells that FUMC has provided and they will put on a Kids Camp for one of the villages. The Kids Camp will consist of games, crafts, singing and teaching the kids a dance or two. Following the Kids Camp, the moms and our youth mentor, Ashleigh Houff, will host a Women's Conference with the LemonAid for Love girls dancing. We welcome your prayers as we prepare for this mission trip.

Contact the church office to donate or for more information.

Dhanyabaad! (Thank you in Nepali)

**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE**



College of Tropical Agriculture  
and Human Resources



University of Hawaii at Manoa

**FREE LIFE SKILLS CLASS**

Fridays, August 23 and 30, September 6, 13, 20  
and 27 from Noon til 2 p.m. in Komuro Hall

Attendees will learn about safe food handling, My Plate, spending less and eating better, varying your exercise, rethinking your drink, and balancing your home budget.

You will receive delicious healthy cooking demonstrations, a cookbook, a budget box, a certificate of completion, and more knowledge to help you and your family be healthier!

For more information or to sign up contact Kim at [kim@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:kim@firstumchonolulu.org) or the church office at 808-522-9555.



**YOGA CLASS**

Thursdays at 12noon

FUMC is offering a FREE Yoga Class every Thursday! Invite your friends to join us.

This class is being offered in accordance with our mission "Growing in Christ through Spirit, mind, **body** and 'ohana".

Beginners are welcomed and encouraged to participate! All levels are welcome.

Bring a towel, water, mat and yoga strap if you have one. If you don't have a mat and strap, one will be provided for you. To register for this FREE class, email [office@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:office@firstumchonolulu.org) or call 522-9555, Monday through Friday, 9-3 p.m.



**FUMC's Got Talent**

**Sunday, August 18  
12 – 2 p.m.**

On August 18 we will be having a joint service followed by an All Church Picnic and Talent Show.

First UMC will be providing the meats for the picnic meal and we ask that everyone bring a side dish such as, salad, fruit, or dessert. Please contact the office to let us know what you will be bringing.

At the Picnic, we would like to feature the wonderful talent of our combined congregations. So if you would like to share your talent (singing, dancing, reciting poetry, etc.) sign up with the office at [office@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:office@firstumchonolulu.org).

We look forward to celebrating the end of summer and the awesome talent of our church members!

-----  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I will be bringing: (please check one)

\_\_\_\_\_ Salad

\_\_\_\_\_ Fruit

\_\_\_\_\_ Dessert



1020 South Beretania Street  
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-1492  
 (808) 522-9555 Fax (808) 528-3992  
 Website: www.firstumchonolulu.org



VBS Camp Out

# AUGUST 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 10 am Hale Nani Nursing Home Outreach
4 8am Pancakes & Praise 10am Joint Worship with Fellowship Luncheon 1:00 p.m. Friends & Family Movie (Sound of Music Sing-Along) & Fellowship	5	6 5:30 pm Centering Prayer 7 pm Trustees Mtg	7 6 pm The Family Table Bible Study 6:30 pm Tongan Language Service	8 12noon Yoga 6:30 pm Tongan Women Prayer Group 8:00 pm Tongan Choir	9	10
11 8am Pancakes & Praise 8:30-11:30 am Health Clinic 10am English Worship 11:30am Disciple's Path 11:30am Youth Grp 12 noon Tongan Worship 3pm Tongan Prayer Service	12	13 5:30 pm Centering Prayer	14 10 am Sorting Clothes for FunFest 11:30 am UMW English Circle 6 pm The Family Table Bible Study 6:30 pm Tongan Language Service	15 11:30am Lunch on the Loose at FUMC 12noon Yoga 6:30 pm Tongan Women Prayer Group 8:00 pm Tongan Choir	16 <b>HOLIDAY</b> OFFICE & FACILITY CLOSED 9 am - 1 pm FunFest@First Set-Up	17 8:30 am Volunteers Check In 9:30-1pm FunFest@First
				Men's Walk to Emmaus		
18 8am Pancakes & Praise 8:30-11:30 am Health Clinic 10am Joint Worship Promotion Sunday 11:30am All Church Picnic and Talent Show	19	20 5:30 pm Centering Prayer 8 pm UMW Tongan Circle	21 6 pm The Family Table Bible Study 6:30 pm Tongan Language Service	22 12noon Yoga 6:30 pm Tongan Women Prayer Group 8:00 pm Tongan Choir	23 12noon -1pm Food Class	24
25 8am Pancakes & Praise 8:30-11:30 am Health Clinic SNAP Assistance 10am English Worship 11:30am Bible Study 11:30am Youth Grp 12 noon Tongan Worship 3 p.m. Tongan Service	26	27 5:30 pm Centering Prayer	28 6 pm The Family Table Bible Study 6:30 pm Tongan Language Service	29 12noon Yoga 6:30 pm Tongan Women Prayer Group 8:00 pm Tongan Choir	30 12noon -1pm Food Class	



## First United Methodist Church

1020 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-1492  
(808) 522-9555 Fax (808) 528-3992  
Website: [www.firstumchonolulu.org](http://www.firstumchonolulu.org)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Church Leaders & Staff

**Pastors:** The Rev. Dr. Tom Choi  
The Rev. Dr. Linita 'U. Maa

**Director of Discipleship & Community Engagement:**  
Kim Houff

**Assistant to the Pastors:** Sandi Brekke

**Facilities Manager:** Paini Harris

**Director of Youth:** Mark Brekke

**Director of Young People's Ministry:** Mele Pepa Latu

**Choir Directors:** Tupou Seini Kelemen, Fololiena Maka

**Accompanist:** Jason Eom

**Finance Administrator:** Ongo Koli

**Custodians:** Heamasi Koli, Pat Sheppard,  
Pongi Vehikite, Sione Palu, Sia Lolohea

\*\*\*\*\*

### CONNECTIONAL LEADERS:

**Resident Bishop:**  
Bishop Grant Hagiya

**District Superintendent:**  
Rev. Dr. Se Hee Han



### WALK TO EMMAUS

Men's Walk: August 15-18 at St. Stephen's Retreat Center

The Walk to Emmaus is an experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation that begins with a three-day short course in Christianity. It's an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed to you through other believers.

Following the three-day experience, participants are joined in small groups to support each other in their ongoing walk with Christ.

If you are interested in participating in Walk to Emmaus, please see Helena Ogle, Pastor Tom or Pastor Linita.

**Check out our website: [www.firstumchonolulu.org](http://www.firstumchonolulu.org)**



**Email: [Office@Firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:Office@Firstumchonolulu.org)**



**Instagram: [firstumchonolulu](https://www.instagram.com/firstumchonolulu)**



**Facebook: [First United Methodist Church Honolulu](https://www.facebook.com/FirstUnitedMethodistChurchHonolulu)**



**Twitter: [HonoluluFUMC](https://twitter.com/HonoluluFUMC)**